

Located on 125 wooded acres in beautiful Malvern, PA, St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills is owned and operated by the Laymen's Retreat League and is the United States' oldest and largest lay-owned retreat center. Since its gates first opened 75 years ago, more than one million people—individuals of every race, creed, and walk of life—have visited St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills.

With its peaceful and serene woodland shrines, St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills, or Malvern as the retreat house is commonly called, provides a unique atmosphere for spiritual reflection. At a time when an increasing number of Americans are seeking moral guidance, St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills is providing and important service, helping people to renew and strengthen themselves spiritually. This year, more than twenty thousand people will visit Malvern and I know that in the future the Laymen's Retreat League will continue to expand its mission for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me the congratulating the Laymen's Retreat League as they mark the 75th anniversary of St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills and in extending this fine organization our best wishes for another successful 75 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. RAFER JOHNSON

##### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Rafer Johnson, who is being honored by the Namasté Interfaith Center.

The Namasté Award was created to honor those individuals who have contributed to improving the human condition and uplifting the human spirit. I cannot think of an individual more deserving of this recognition than Rafer Johnson.

Throughout his life, Rafer's motto has been "to be the best that you can be." In 1960, he won the gold medal in the decathlon at the Olympic games in Rome. Building on that success, he has served as the president of the board of directors of the California Special Olympics for almost 10 years and is currently the chairman of the board of governors. Rafer is also the national head coach for Special Olympics International, which is headquartered in Washington, DC. He works as sports announcer, actor, and commercial and public spokesperson, and serves on a variety of special boards and committees for community service organizations.

However, I think it is Rafer's compassion and dedication to aspiring young athletes that is his greatest contribution to our community. Senator Robert Kennedy once said, "Every time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope . . . and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression." For three decades, Rafer has been working with mentally and physically handicapped children and adults. He helped to start the California Special Olympics and has played a vital role in ensuring its success. As a program which began with only a few participants competing

in two sports, it has evolved to include thousands of competitors in 20 sports. This event has helped assuage the prejudice faced by disabled individuals throughout our community.

Rafer inspires in others the courage to pursue their dreams, and is a living example of how one individual can positively influence the lives of hundreds. Though a world renowned athlete and champion, Rafer Johnson has shown us that winning isn't everything; rather, the important thing is the way in which you choose to live your life and how you can positively impact the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Rafer Johnson. He is truly a role model for our community.

#### HONORING RABBI NORTON AND BAILA SHARGEL

##### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friends, Rabbi Norton and Baila Shargel, the spiritual leaders of the Jewish Community Center of Harrison, NY.

On December 7, the extended family of JCC of Harrison will host a gala brunch honoring Rabbi and Mrs. Shargel and benefiting the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. It is entirely fitting that the Shargels and the seminary be recognized together for their shared values and for their profound contribution to the Jewish community.

I have had the great pleasure of knowing Rabbi and Mrs. Shargel since moving to Westchester County and joining their congregation more than a decade ago. But their inspiring leadership predates our acquaintance. Indeed, for 25 years, the Shargels have enriched Harrison with their thoughtful philosophical insights and immense personal warmth.

Rabbi and Mrs. Shargel are pillars of the community. They are as giving of their time and effort to broad and numerous causes as they are quick with wise counsel for the members of their temple. Their activities evidence a deep commitment to humanitarian ideals and to the spirit of compassion and generosity at the very heart of Jewish teaching.

The Shargels' commitment to the Jewish Theological Seminary is every bit as powerful. Indeed, JCC of Harrison has spearheaded several events of great importance to the seminary, including the seminary's conferring of the Herbert Lehman Award, a special occasion for leaders of Judaism's conservative movement.

Personally, I have always valued the advance and spiritual guidance of the rabbi and his wife. I hope and believe that their example has made me a better public servant.

Rabbi and Mrs. Shargel honor us with their deeds and their work. I am delighted that JCC of Harrison has chosen to celebrate this wonderful couple and so pleased to record my admiration in this record of the Congress of the United States of America.

#### GRATITUDE TO PHIL SWAFFORD

##### HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in U.S. House of Representatives in solemn gratitude for the life of my friend, Phil Swafford.

I have known Phil all of my life. To say that he will be missed by us all does not begin to adequately describe our feelings toward this man. Phil was everything a person is supposed to be. He was a loving and devoted son, husband, and father. He was a Christian gentleman who spread his sense of humor and good nature everywhere he went.

His pleasant personality was infectious, and he consequently had more people who considered him a friend than anyone I know. He was the type of person who, in my opinion, still makes our county the greatest in the world.

He was blessed by the Good Lord with two loving and intelligent parents, who, simply put, raised their boys right. Phil, in turn, as a grown man, gave generously to himself to his church, his family, and his community. Phil was a fun person to be around. All of us who knew him grieve at his death, but rejoice in his life.

Thank you, Phil, for being the type of person you were, and thank you Lord for letting Phillip Swafford's life on this Earth be a part of ours as well.

#### PROTECTING THE VIABILITY OF MONTANA'S FAMILY FARMERS

##### HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce much-needed legislation which will help preserve over 2,000 family farms in the Mission, Jacko, and Cama Valleys in Montana and provide for better government accountability. It also does not interfere with existing water rights or native American sovereignty and continues longstanding initiatives to protect the environment.

The bill I introduce today accomplishes all of these important objectives by transferring the operation and maintenance of an irrigation project in Montana from the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to the local irrigators who have been the caring stewards of their lands and water for generations. This reflects prior public law commitments to local management of the Flathead Irrigation District. I am proud to have House Agriculture Committee Chairman BOB SMITH and House Resources Committee Chairman DON YOUNG as original cosponsors. Their longstanding experience on these issues underscores the need for this legislation.

This legislation aims to correct a serious problem that deserves a timely solution. For too long, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has poorly managed this project. Using current estimates, the project is in need of 15 to 20 million dollars' worth of repair and conditioning and those needs will continue to grow unless positive actions are taken. The consequences of mismanagement are not only undermining the project's viability, but are leading to unnecessarily high costs for all of its users. This is simply unacceptable.